

Midwest Regional Office:
26677 W. Twelve Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48034
Phone: (248) 355-2511
Fax: (248) 355-2511
Email: NFJAPres@aol.com

February 15, 2006

The Honorable William Van Regenmorter
Chairman
Michigan House Judiciary Committee
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: SENATE BILLS 120 & 263

Dear Chairman Van Regenmorter:

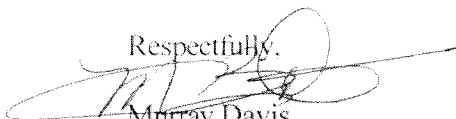
The purpose of this official correspondence is to express our opposition at this time to SB 120 & 263 (in absentia) which are before your committee hearing today.

Although additional study by our research staff will now be conducted on these bills passed recently by the Michigan Senate, it is difficult to see at this juncture how both pieces of legislation, which seek to amend the traditional code of criminal procedure, could withstand Constitutional muster in their current form.

By apparently subverting the legal rights of an *accused* (not convicted) defendant by allowing the admission of "hearsay evidence" opens the door even wider to law enforcement & judicial abuse not only in many criminal cases, but especially in domestic family law cases where unsubstantiated evidence will undoubtedly be used in a variety of rulings including child custody, parenting time, etc. No matter how 'well intentioned', such "hearsay" evidence admission will in the least prejudice prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and judges against a supposedly "*innocent-until-proven-guilty*" defendant.

We will complete our research of these bills shortly and make the results available to your committee, the Michigan House of Representatives, the Governor, and the general public via the appropriate channels. In the interim, we respectfully request that these not be reported out from your committee until the proper research has been conducted by all interested and involved parties.

Respectfully,



Murray Davis
Board President

Cc: Jane Spies, executive director